Mr. Dan Schorr
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10/1/88

Ambassador Richard Melton did, knowingly and against advice, precipitate the violence at Nandaime, Nicaragua, that led to his expulsion and that of others of his staff that also participated. This is directly contrary to his Congressional testimony and his and other official statements. And, that same weekend, apparently expecting that it would not be disclosed, he also stated, "we're here to overthrow their government." I'm sure you know the great significance of any such statement coming from an official. Once reported - and getting the attention he did not get at that time - the entire situation is changed and we are acknowledgedly in violation of law and practise.

I'm sorry I've forgotten to send you the enclosed, which reflect what I say above. I'd heard you were then away and I didn't remember until hearing you on NPR a few moments ago.

It also is apparent from the enclosed that the Reagan administration has been running a shuttle of non-Congressional CONGRESSIONAL delegations - 50 in 1987 alone - to influence the Congressional voting, some with outside contribution, if not all (this one was partly financed by the National Forum Foundation) and by military aircraft, or with taxpayers money I presume is not in any appropriation.

It appears that in this instance Cong. Beverly Byron was able to take as part of her staff the managing editor of our local dailies, the only dailies in the county in which she lives, and a photographer. This editor, Mike Powell, says he was there only to do a story on her - in an election year. I'm confident that Melton would not have been as open and forthright if he'd known anyone from the press was present.

If you read his stories with care I think you may see more that is relevant and important today as it was when it happened and was ignored, save for the major media dutifully falling into step with the administration's calling of cadence.

I was in intelligence in World War II and for a short period thereafter, in OSS and in State, and I assure you that the significance of an official statement, and Melton was the highest US official in Nicaragua, makes an enormous difference and, with attention, changes the entire character of everything, including in foreign affairs, at the UN and before the Congress. The distinction, and the importance, has since then been underscored in countless FOIA suits I've pursued.

If I know anything more that may interest you, normally I'm home just about all the time but this coming week have some medical appointments that will have me away for short periods of time, all Wednesday morning. 301/473-8186

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

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